

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

A COUPLING DEVICE FOR RESTRAINING BELTS, PARTICULARLY FOR  
CHILDREN'S SAFETY SEATS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a coupling device for restraining belts, particularly for children's safety seats used in motor vehicles.

*2/11/07*  
[0002] The restraining belts for children's safety seats for motor vehicles are typically constituted by three or five branches, one of which is attached at one of its free ends to the body of a coupling device, or buckle. The other two or four branches are attached at their free ends to respective latching elements, or tongues, adapted to be inserted and locked in the buckle body.

*Okay to enter*  
[0003] A coupling device of this kind is known for example from European Patent application EP-A-1 295 541.

[0004] According to the prior art, the tongues (or the tongue, where a restraining system with only two branches is used) comprise an elongated metal stem, the free end portion of which is variously shaped so as to engage in the buckle body. The stem of the tongue extends from an attachment portion adapted to be connected to the belt and generally made of plastic, in which a slot is provided for connection to the end of the associated branch of the belt. However, such tongues suffer from the drawback that the metal part